

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 02795 090923Z

21

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00 AID-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8061

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: EXPANDED INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM: PAROLE
CONSULTATIONS

REF: BANGKOK 2794

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE EFFORT BEING MADE TO OBTAIN
ADDITIONAL PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR INDOCHINA REFUGEE
REMAINING IN THAILAND AND HOPE THE CONSULTATIONS NOW
UNDERWAY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. I BELIEVE WE CONTINUE TO
HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO MANY OF THESE REFUGEES. OTHER
RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE NOT SUFFICIENT DESPITE
THE FACT THAT THIRD COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY TAKEN ALMOST
6,000 REFUGEES FROM THAILAND AND WILL PROBABLY TAKE AN
ADDITIONAL 4,000 BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE. (WE HAVE TAKEN
ABOUT 7,500 UNDER EARLIER PAROLE AUTHORITY.) BEYOND
HUMANITARIAN
CONSIDERATIONS, ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL
REFUGEES ENHANCES OUR IMAGE IN SEA AS A RESPONSIBLE
POWER DESPITE RECENT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. FINALLY,
U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES TO WHOM WE HAVE
AN OBLIGATION WILL GIVE THE RTG A BETTER PROSPECT OF
COPING WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES (ROUGHLY
75,000) WHO WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND. AS YOU KNOW, I
FEEL IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO GAIN THIS NEW
PAROLE AUTHORITY AND IF MY VIEWS CAN BE OF ANY
ASSISTANCE OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM THE CONGRESS,
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PLEASE MAKE THEM KNOWN.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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